



*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 10, 2022

**HOUSE BILL 1292 - Public Schools and Child Care Providers  
Immunizations - Discriminatory Policies Prohibited**

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the HGO committee,

I come before you today to present House Bill 1292 and ask for you to give it a favorable report.

The purpose of this legislation is to prohibit a county board of education, public school, or child care provider from adopting a certain immunization policy that prohibits certain children from participating in certain activities or discriminates against certain children for having a certain exemption from certain immunization requirements. Additionally, this legislation prohibits the discrimination and separate treatment requirements, including different quarantine policies for a child who has received an exemption from a required immunization either because it conflicts with the parent's bona fide religious beliefs or a child's documented medical condition on the advice of the child's physician.

This important bill will prevent the blatant discrimination that occurred in Montgomery County Public Schools over the last school year. Many children, many with existing exemptions from vaccination, were denied access to their sports teams. MCPS claimed that it was for the safety of the students, yet they themselves admitted that children who the MCPS children would be playing against have no such policy and offer no guarantees as to the vaccination status of their students. In addition, the scientifically proven natural immunity, which is recognized by the state for all other viral vaccine-preventable illnesses was being completely ignored.

This body has the very important role of making these kinds of important decisions with the consult of the experts and the citizens. It is our duty to stop these forms of discrimination when they occur in our state and prevent them from happening again.